


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 33401  
: :  
SHEHADA, RAMEZ EMILE NECOLA : Confirmation Number: 9078  
: :  
Serial No.: 10/776,021 : Group Art Unit: 3761  
: :  
Filed: February 09, 2004 : Examiner: HAND, Melanie Jo  
: :  
For: SURGICAL DRAIN WITH POSITIONING AND PROTECTIVE FEATURES

**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office On 1-24-07  
  
Richard E. Elchenberger

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicant brings the additional references listed on the attached supplemental Form PTO-1449 to the examiner's attention. 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. These references supplement the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, filed June 13, 2005, March 28, 2005, and December 28, 2004. These references may be material to examination of the above-identified application. Please do not construe the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement as a representation that applicant has made a search (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), or as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. We enclose a copy of the cited non-US patent document.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted:

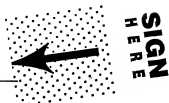
- ☐ 1. Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d), or within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, and therefore, Applicant believes no fee is required;
- ☒ 2. After the period specified in paragraph (1) hereinabove of this section, but is being filed before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, or a notice of allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of the following:
- ☐ (a) A statement that either:
- (i) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- OR
- (ii) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- OR
- ☒ (b) The fee of \$180 for filing of an Information Disclosure Statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. After the period specified in paragraph (2) of this section, but is filed on or before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by both:
- ☐ (a) A statement that either:
- (i) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- OR
- (ii) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- ☐ (b) The fee of \$180.00 for filing of an Information Disclosure Statement as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

Applicant would appreciate the Examiner initialing and signing a copy of Form PTO-1449, transmitted herewith, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 501946** referencing order number 064693-0103

1-24, 2007

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